THE DUNSTONER

SATURDAY MAY 3RD 2025 | DUNSTON FC VS STOCKSBRIDGE PARK STEELS | 3:00PM KICK-OFF | ISSUE 25

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WELCOME TO DUNSTON!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone in attendance at the UTS Stadium this afternoon for this PITCHING-IN Northern Premier League East Division Play-Off Final.

Our opponents today are STOCKSBRIDGE PARK STEELS FC who make the long journey to the UTS Stadium from South Yorkshire for the second time in a week. "The Steels" were the visitors for our final NPL game of the regular season last Saturday when they achieved their target of a 1-0 victory that was required to confirm their third place finish in the League Table and participation in the end-of-season Play-Offs. Dunston FC were already assured of second place in the Table before the game started. Stocksbridge Park Steels FC cemented home advantage in the Semi-Final Tie against fourth placed Belper Town FC on Tuesday evening by having a better goal-difference, with both Clubs finishing the regular season on seventy-eight points. The verdict went right to the wire with Newton Aycliffe being the unlucky club to miss out at the last gasp. They have our utmost sympathy. On Tuesday evening at Stocksbridge's Bracken Moor Stadium, a very close contest between two excellent, evenly matched teams was expected and this proved to be the case! In a hard-fought first period, Stocksbridge grabbed a vital lead through prolific Centre-Forward Luke Rawson only five minutes before the half-time break. In the second-half, Belper Town fought to get back into the game but just when it seemed that an equaliser wouldn't come, Belper Town talisman Kevin Bastos scored in the 88th minute to force extra-time. Both sides went close during extra-time but it was Stocksbridge substitute Tomas Poole who clinched victory with the winning goal on 110 minutes to spark the celebrations.

We all know what occurred on Tuesday evening at The UTS Sadium! Another close game and another late goal! More celebrations! If the game this afternoon is not resolved after 90 minutes play, two periods of extra-time lasting 15 minutes each-way will be played. If there is still no result, the outcome will be decided on penalties.

We also extend a warm welcome to our Match Officials this afternoon. Our Referee Martin Beard makes the long journey from Alfreton in Derbyshire and he is joined by his two Assistant Referees Lewis Marriner who comes from Houghton-le-Spring and Kevin McKitterick who comes from Seaham. Our Fourth Official today is Sam Ross who makes the journey from Durham.

Supporters old and new are very well appreciated and we hope you enjoy your visit to the UTS Stadium today. If you require any help or information about the Club and facilities, please do not hesitate to contact any Management Committee Member.

Let's look forward to a competitive match. Enjoy the game!

BILLY MONTAGUE CLUB SECRETARY

DUNSTON FOOTBALL CLUB
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MEET THE TEAM

CRAIG BAXTER - DEFENDER

Craig Baxter is a defensively strong and composed right back who brings a wealth of experience of playing higher up in leagues to the Dunston back line. Craig has a proven track record of success, a key player for The Mariners over a five-season spell and making 188 appearances and played an integral role in the Gateshead side which reached the National League playoff final at Wembley Stadium in the 2013/14 season.

JJ CHRISP - MIDFIELDER

Described by Dunston Manager Jon McDonald as a player with a lot of potential, JJ signed for the club over the summer. Chrisp is a versatile youngster with a lot of tenacity and hunger to succeed. The 20 year-old primarily operates as a midfielder but is more than capable of playing at left back as well.

RICHARD COULSON - FORWARD

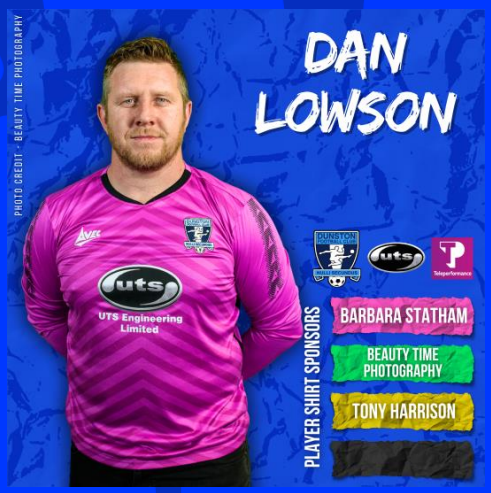
Richie arrived in early December 2021 from Northern League side Whitley Bay. He has an eye for goal and picked up six goals during his first season at the club 2021/22 season. Able to play anywhere across the frontline, Richie has added versatility to the Dunston side, and following another impressive season in 2022/23, will be looking to build on that his ability as Dunston push for promotion.

SADO DJALO - FORWARD

The Guinea Bissau-born forward rejoined the club ahead of the 2022-23 season after joining Blyth Spartans during the 2021-22 season. The Forward left for Blyth Spartans in November 2021, having scored 9 goals in 12 appearances for Dunston UTS. With his game time at Croft Park limited, he re-joined Dunston in March on an initial 1-month loan deal. In his return season in 2023-24, he shared the top scorer award with 14 goals.

TOM DEVITT - DEFENDER

The 28-year-old central defender joined on an initial one-month loan in October to bolster the defensive options for Jon McDonald's side. He has since signed a longer term deal with the club which will see him remain at the UTS Stadium until 2026. Devitt was part of Hebburn's league winning squad last season and also used to play for Gateshead.



DAN LOWSON - GOALKEEPER

The experienced goalkeeper could prove to be a pivotal addition to the club. Lowson has most recently spent the last six seasons as the number one at Morpeth Town. He completed a permanent transfer to the Highwaymen in 2018 following a spell at National League North side, Spennymoor Town. Lowson has also had stints at both Blyth Spartans and Alfreton Town.

MEET THE TEAM

CHRIS MCDONALD – DEFENDER

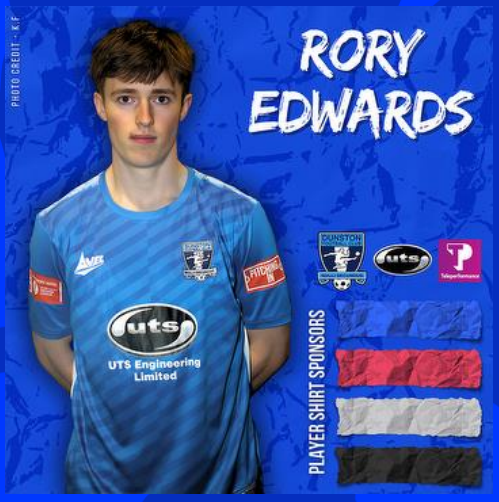
Chris is a very experienced defender who spent five seasons at North Shields before moving to Dunston in the summer of 2023. The left- back played a major part in that Robins team where he was instrumental in guiding them to promotion from the Northern League. 'Macca' also has experience playing for Whitley Bay, Berwick Rangers and Morpeth Town.

HARVEY NEARY - MIDFIELDER

Neary became Jon McDonald's first summer signing ahead of the 2024/25 campaign. A talented young midfielder, who can also operate at right back, with a lot of potential after impressing at Whitley Bay over the last couple of seasons.

JJ O'DONNELL- FORWARD

A marquee signing for Jon McDonald. O'Donnell brings a lot of experience to the squad having previously played for Luton Town, Gateshead, and Blyth Spartans. An attacking player who will be looking to add goals and assists as he looks to help the club push up the league table.



RORY EDWARDS - MIDFIELDER

Spending over six years at Crystal Palace Academy, the London-born midfielder joined in January 2025. Rory is a composed box-to-box midfielder who is looking to continue his development at Dunston.

DALE PEARSON - FORWARD

The powerful frontman signed for Dunston in February 2022 from Morpeth Town. Pearson made an instant impact last season as he took no time at all to settle in and hit the ground running. Dale also played for Consett AFC and scored at Wembley in the FA Vase Final in 2021 against Hebburn Town.

MICHAEL PEARSON - MIDFIELDER

The Club Captain joined Dunston prior to the start of the 2015/16 season from Consett AFC, a season in which he would receive The Player of the Season Award. An industrious and combative player, he possesses a versatility which allows him to comfortably play in numerous positions, he has since gone on to play more than 200 games for Dunston and was made captain ahead of the 2023/24 season by new Manager Jon McDonald.

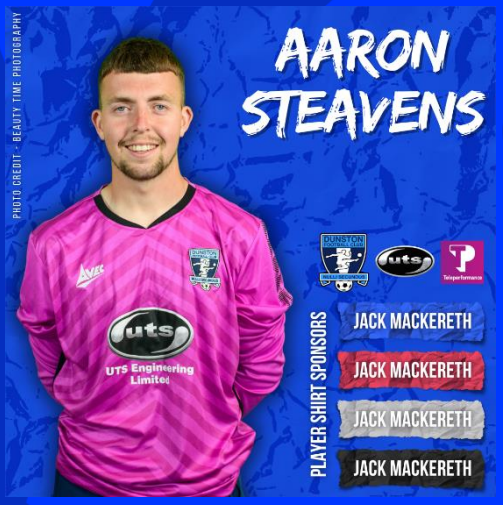
MEET THE TEAM

DAVID ROBINSON - MIDFIELDER

'Robbo' joined Dunston ahead of the 2023/24 season from North Shields and made an early impact, winning the Player of the Season award in his first season. The midfield dynamo possesses a lot of flair, scoring some wonderful long-range goals to add to his combative style. David also has leadership qualities having captained the likes of Seaham Red Star and Newcastle Benfield in the past.

SCOTT ROBSON - FORWARD

A marquee signing ahead of the 2024/25 season. The 24-year-old forward spent the last five seasons at Whickham in the Northern League. He scored a remarkable 56 goals in 48 games in the 2023/24 season winning the Northern League Division One Player of the Season and Golden Boot.

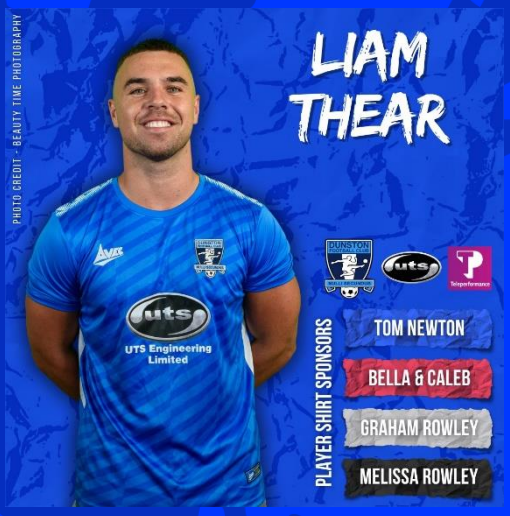


AARON STEAVENS - GOALKEEPER

Aaron joined Dunston last season from Consett AFC to provide excellent cover in the vital position of goalkeeper. His agility between the sticks is backed up by superb distribution. He is a professional goalkeeping coach.

JUDE SWAILES - DEFENDER

Having been with Newcastle United FC since he was a youngster, Jude emerged through Newcastle's Academy system, before moving up into the ranks of The Premier League side's Under 23's squad. is a strong competitor in the Dunston back line, and can be described as a no-nonsense centre half, willing to put his body on the line for the club. He has come on leaps and bounds since his arrival.



LIAM THEAR - FORWARD

Liam Thear is one of Dunston's longest serving players and has just shy of 200 appearances heading into the 2024/25 season. He moved to Dunston after completing a successful stint at Gateshead FC Academy, where he was highly rated. "Scrappy" is a very strong and tricky player who has matured and developed tremendously whilst at Dunston.

ALFIE TURNBULL - FORWARD

Alfie is a recent acquisition on a dual registration with Guisborough Town of the Northern League who has shown much promise in his contact with Dunston in pre-season. He has an abundance of pace and great ability on the ball which takes him past his opponents with ease. Alfie started is senior career at Norton & Stockton Ancients before joining Billingham Town for the 2023/24 season.

MEET THE TEAM

PHIL TURNBULL - MIDFIELDER

Phil Turnbull is described as a fiercely competitive player and joined the club along with ex-teammate Craig Baxter in 2021. “Twinny” played over 300 times for Gateshead as the Heed reached the Conference play-off Final in 2014. He then moved to Darlington in 2015 where he gained promotion to The National League North in his first season. In 2018 he was key to the continued promotion successes at South Shields, but when the Mariners moved to full-time, ex-Dunston Manager Chris Swailes wasted no time in bringing the vastly experienced and talented midfielder to the UTS Stadium.

DAN TURNER - FORWARD

The 20-year-old arrived at the club in June 2024 becoming our fifth addition of the summer. He was a part of the Newcastle Blue Star squad that achieved promotion to Northern League Division One last season. After coming through the Sunderland Academy, Dan also had a spell at North Shields. He’s a young forward with an eye for goal and will provide further options in attack this coming season.

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

JON MCDONALD - MANAGER

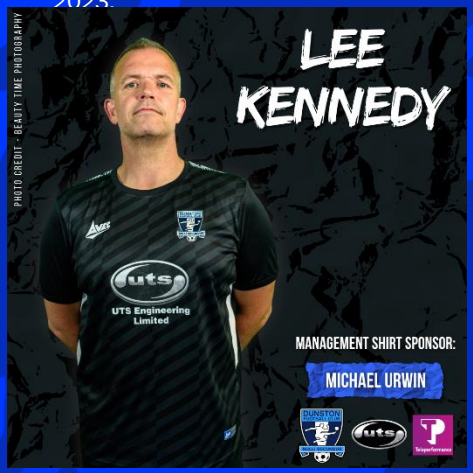
A Wallsend lad, Jon made the move to The UTS Stadium in early March of 2021 from Northern Premier League side Morpeth Town, where he had held the equivalent position for three seasons. During his second spell at Craik Park, he had been part of two successive promotions with “The Highwaymen” and a Northumberland Senior Cup victory in the 2018/19 season. He has previously managed Blyth AFC, guiding them to The Northern League 2nd Division title in the 2017/18 season, as well as managerial spells with West Allotment Celtic and North Shields in The Northern League. Following the departure of Chris Swailes at the end of the 2022/23 season, Jon was installed as Dunston FC Manager in May 2023.

MARK SCOTT – ASSISTANT MANAGER

Mark joins the club with experience in coaching at South Shields FC and North Shields FC where he worked with assistant manager Jon McDonald, More recently, he has spent time at Spennymoor Town FC where he was part of the academy coaching staff. He holds a UEFA A License and will be a superb addition to an already vastly experienced coaching set up.Upon joining the club, Mark said: “I’m delighted to join the club. As an opposing player and coach over the years I have always admired Dunston as a well-run and successful club.

IAN IRVING - COACH

Ian joined the club’s coaching setup in August 2021 before stepping down in November 2022. Ahead of the 2024-25 season, he rejoined the club following Andy Wright’s departure from the management team. Ian enjoyed a successful playing career at the likes of Ashington, Blyth Spartans, North Shields and Whitley Bay. He also worked alongside Dunston Manager Jon McDonald at Blyth Town where the duo achieved a promotion from Northern League Division Two.



LEE KENNEDY – GK COACH

Lee joined Dunston at the beginning of the 2022-23 season bringing with him a wealth of experience. He has worked with a range of teams at all levels of the game. Manager Jon McDonald highlighted Lee's quality before his arrival: "I've known Lee for a number of years. He's an honest, reliable bloke and will be an asset for Dunston. He has good attributes to bring out the best in our goalkeepers.”

LEWIS BLACK – PHYSIO

Lewis joined the backroom staff in July 2021 having completed three years of studying at Newcastle College University Centre, graduating with a First-Class Honours Degree in Exercise and Sports Rehabilitation. Alongside his studies, he completed a three year placements at Park View Academy of Sport and was able to develop his skills as a practitioner. Following on, he then became Sports Therapist for Chester-le-Street United.

OUR HISTORY

The club first saw light of day in 1975 as the Football Section of a Print Works Sports & Social Club. Long-serving Club stalwart John Thompson, along with some of his fellow workmates at Her Majesty's Stationery Office Gateshead, formed the team and joined the Newcastle City Amateur League playing at the Civil Service Sports Ground, Longbenton, Newcastle.

Early success inspired John to develop the club and it moved to a new base, The Bay Horse public house in Whickham. The club's name was changed to Whickham Sports FC. Playing on a public park pitch in Dunston, the club entered the Northern Amateur League. Numerous successes were achieved at this level including League Championships and League Cup wins.

In 1980 the Club joined the Northern Combination League. Further League and Cup triumphs followed and a move to a base nearer the home ground seemed logical. The club moved to a new base at the Dunston Mechanics Social Club and became known as Dunston Mechanics FC. As the club progressed, land in the locality was leased from Gateshead MBC and the management committee began to develop the present ground.

At this stage, an approach was made to the Federation Brewery for sponsorship to assist in the progress of the Club. When they kindly agreed to become the club's main sponsors, the name was changed to Dunston Federation Brewery F.C. After finishing as League Champions and League Cup Winners in 1987, the Club left the Northern Combination League and joined the Wearside League. Following a period of four seasons in the Wearside League – being League Champions twice and League Cup Winners once – the club felt a need to seek new opportunities and an application was made to join the prestigious Northern Football League.

During their time in the Wearside League, the club had made considerable improvements to Federation Park with progress to a higher status of football in mind, and their application to join the Northern League was successful. The club had now realised one of its main ambitions and so entered the National Pyramid of Non-League Football.

In its second season in the Northern League, the club won the Second Division Title and was promoted to the First Division. That season also saw the club reach the last eight of the national FA Vase competition.

The club was now an established Northern League club having won the League Challenge Cup three years in succession from 1998 to 2000. Dunston also won the J. R. Cleator Cup in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. Season 2003/2004 was one to remember when the club won the Northern League Championship for the first time and lifted the League Challenge Cup. They also reached the final qualifying round of the F.A. Cup – the furthest they have ever reached in that competition.

CONTINUED

After such a magnificent season in 2003/2004, the club went one better the following season when they repeated the Northern League Championship and Challenge Cup Double and lifted the J. R. Cleator Cup once more.

In 2009, having been without a main sponsor for the previous three seasons, Mr. Shaun Sadler of UTS Engineering kindly agreed to provide a generous sponsorship package and it was agreed that the Club be known as Dunston UTS Football Club. The name of the ground was changed from Federation Park to The UTS Stadium.

The club enjoyed a momentous season in 2011-2012 when, under the Management duo of Billy Irwin and Tony Harrison, they finished third in the Northern League and achieved the greatest success in their history. After a memorable run in the FA Vase, the side reached the Final at Wembley Stadium and went on to lift the trophy with a superb 2-0 victory over West Auckland Town.

After a few barren years, the club sprang back to life again at the end of the 2017-2018 season when finishing as Runners-Up in the Durham Challenge Cup Final and going one better with victory in the Brooks Mileson Memorial League Cup Final. Building on the new-found momentum, Dunston continued in the same vein in the following season with a great run in the FA Cup, going out in the final Qualifying Round to National League neighbours Gateshead in front of a record crowd of 2,525 at the UTS Stadium.

The Club finished the 2018-2019 season as convincing Champions of the Northern League First Division, seventeen points ahead of their nearest rivals. Promotion ensued to the BetVictor Northern Premier North West Division but FA Regulations dictated that the “Club Playing Name” must not include any reference to a sponsor so the “UTS” was reluctantly dropped from the Club Title before the new season commenced. Shaun Sadler showed remarkable understanding of the situation and agreed to continue his wonderful sponsorship of the club. With the aid of a generous grant from the FSIF, improvements were completed to bring the ground up to NPL standards.

The step up proved more difficult than expected in the NPL North West Division and it wasn’t until the turn of the year that the team achieved any real consistency. The early cancellation of League proceedings due to Covid-19 in March 2020 saw the Club finish in mid-table. After yet another early curtailment in 2020-21, Dunston started the 21-22 season in the newly formed NPL East Division much stronger and finished in sixth-place, just missing out on the end-of-season Play-Offs. The 22-23 season saw yet another upgrade in playing strength and more Stadium improvements but the same disappointing final finish of sixth from top.

Season 2023-24 brought about more improvements all around the club, but a severe winter brought an unprecedented amount of heavy rain which caused several games to be postponed from October through to April. Despite this, Dunston FC finally reached

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the play-offs only to lose out in a final penalty shoot-out at Stockton Town having been in the lead until the final seconds of extra-time. So close.... We must use this as an inspiration to make another determined effort to go on and make the dream of promotion a reality at the end of the season in 2025!

In a very competitive division, we will have to go that extra step in the 2024-25 season if we are to achieve our aim of promotion but under the guidance of our new Team Manager Jon McDonald and his coaches, we will do our best!

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Members: ANTHONY CLEUGH, PAUL DIXON, CHARLES HARM, HELEN ROCKS, WILLIAM MARTIN HOPE, WILLIAM IRWIN, PATRICK MCELHONE, IAN MCPHERSON, GARY POPPLETON, GRAHAM ROWLEY, BRIAN SELLARS, STEPHEN SIBBALD, JOHN THOMPSON, MICHAEL URWIN, DANIEL JAMES WHALEN, STEPHEN EDWARD WHITTAKER & FRANK RANKIN

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A business of Marsh McLennan

TODAY'S VISITORS

HARRY GARMAN – Goalkeeper Harry, a goalkeeper, signed from Brighouse Town in January 2023. He made 13 NPL appearances for Brighouse before making the move to the Steels. Harry impressed while on cover last season making 5 appearances and crucial saves in his spell with the club.

BEN TOWNSEND – Goalkeeper Ben re-signed for the Steels from Matlock Town. He made 63 appearances over the past couple of years for the club after joining from Handsworth. Previously at Worksop Town and Lincoln United.

JORDAN LEMON – Defender Jordan is a right-back who has been featured in Team of the Years before. He signed for the Steels at the end of 2018 from Matlock Town and has been a regular in the first team ever since, hitting 100 appearances in Feb 2023. This will be his 7th season with the club.

JACK TINKER – Defender Signed in October 2021 from Brighouse Town. A young full back who can plan on either flank. He became 1st choice left back at start of 22/23 and has already made over 80 appearances for the club and won the young player of the year award in 23/24. Jack is a real tough defender and a firm fans favourite due to his playing attributes.

ELLIOT MURRAY – Defender The young defender initially joined the Steels prior to the 2022/23 campaign and went on to make 41 appearances and scored five goals before departing in February 2024. A former Derby County Academy player, he made the move to Mickleover at the age of 16 and eventually made his senior debut with the club. He also has experience of Step 4 football from his time at Brighouse Town.

ELLIOT OWEN – Defender Signed from Pontefract Collieries in the close season where he helped them to a playoff position scoring two goals along the way. The former York City Youth player will sure up the central defensive position with his calm and strong presence.

TOM CHARLESWORTH – Defender Tom is a right-back who is in his second spell with the club after signing in December 2023 from near neighbours Penistone Church, for whom he signed for in 2019. Tom is a hardworking full back who supports and commits well for his teammates.

KYLE AUSTIN – Defender Kyle has an experienced head on his young shoulders. Came through the Stocksbridge Player Development Pathway and made his debut last season for the first team. Has impressed in the close season and will be pushing for appearances this season.

DAN NELSON – Defender A young defender who has come through the Stocksbridge Player Development Pathway. Dan has been with the club through the double winning U18 squad and Captain of the Reserves team who won the County Association Cup last season. Dan made his debut last season against Grimsby Borough and has continued to work hard and impress.

KURTIS TURNER – Midfielder The clubs captain and one of the clubs most important players. Kurtis has made over 140 appearances for the club in two spells. He re-signed for the Steels as Ian Richard's first new signing. The ex-Barnsley midfielder had enjoyed a brief spell at local rivals Penistone Church. A reliable, combative midfielder.

TODAY'S VISITORS

ALEX O'CONNOR – Midfielder The clubs Australian midfielder. Joined in Autumn 2021 signing from Yorkshire rivals Brighouse Town. Has previously played for Hyde and was part of Barnsley's Shadow Scholarship scheme. Has played for the Steels over 80 times and will be looking to hit the 100 mark this season.

OLIVER NOWAK – Midfielder Olly has made the step up from the Youth and Reserves sides over the past year. He made 16 appearances scoring 2 goals last season.

ASH BUTTERWORTH – Midfielder A close season signing from Brighouse Town where he played 36 times in the NPL scoring 1 goal. He has spent time at Frickley Athletic, Heanor Town and West Bridgeford.

DANNY DEAKIN – Midfield Danny has played previously in America for Orlando City and Detroit City as well as for Rossington Main and Retford United recently. The new signing brings a lot to the table including the ability to link up play, register assists and score goals.

TOMMY MARSHALL – Forward Tommy re-signed for the Steels this term after being on dual registration with Chesterfield FC last term. He made two Chesterfield first team appearances in the FA Trophy.

JAMES MORRIS – Forward James played for the Steels in 2019 under Chris Hilton, when he made six appearances for the club. He also had a loan spell with Frickley Athletic. He would then cross the Atlantic on a scholarship to play for the Seattle University Redhawks, where he was the captain.

HARRISON POULTER – Forward The 20-year-old striker was a junior at Sheffield United before moving to Scunthorpe United. He featured for the Iron in the EFL Trophy before playing five times for them in the National League. He had loan spells with several Step 4 clubs such as Spalding United and Cleethorpes United before moving to Matlock Town in the summer. He would then have stints with Belper Town and Doncaster City.

JACK DOLMAN – Forward Dolman initially signed for the Steels in 2023 after being with the Chesterfield Youth side. He would go on to make 25 appearances for Stocksbridge, scoring twice including the winner against tomorrow's opponents Newton Aycliffe. This summer, he made the switch to Sheffield FC before moving onto Handsworth. He now makes a return to Stocksbridge.

SILAS VALLADOLID-COLLINS – Forward A tricky, pacey winger, Silas signed for the Steels from Clay Cross Town. He won the double with Parkgate in the NCEL League.

LUKE RAWSON – Forward A forward, Luke re-signed for the Steels in February from NPL Division One East rivals Belper Town where he scored 10 times this season. Luke originally signed for Stocksbridge two years ago and was a key member of the playoff push season of 22/23. He scored 18 goals last season before his move to Derbyshire. His career started at Chesterfield in 2018 with appearances in League Two, and from here he was sent out on loan to gain experience at various non-league clubs including Matlock and Alfreton.

STOCKSBRIDGE RECENT HISTORY

2008/09 was a fabulous season for Gary Marrow's team, having finished third in Unibond NPL League Division 1 South, they won the Play-off final against rivals Belper Town 1-0 and were promoted to the Unibond NPL Premier League for the first time in the club's history. Steels supporters were in for a rollercoaster debut season in the Premier Division. Ten games into the season, while his team were top of the league, manager Gary Marrow resigned. Former Steels player Simon Collins took over but unfortunately his tenure didn't last. Reserve manager Steve Shutt took over and guided Steels to an excellent eleventh place. The 2010/11 season started with the return of Gary Marrow as manager but resigned just before Christmas during the 2011/12 season and was replaced by Chris Willcock and assisted by Darren Schofield. Willcock guided the Steels to safety that season. Willcock's second season in charge didn't start well and he was replaced by his assistant Darren Schofield who brought in the experienced defender Brett Lovell as his number two. Once again Stocksbridge managed to avoid relegation but again it went down to the wire. The 2013/14 season started on a high with an exciting victory over Droylsden but from then on the Steels struggled and spent most of the season in the relegation zone. Player/Manager Darren Schofield parted company at the end of the season. Chris Hilton was appointed the new boss for the 2014/15 season. Chris immediately brought in the former Emley midfielder Mark 'Willy' Wilson as his assistant and experienced former Barnsley defender Ryan Laight as player coach. 2015/16 was a successful season for Stocksbridge having their best ever run in the FA Trophy eventually losing out to National League side Gateshead, after they had beaten the holders North Ferriby in the previous round. Steels finished the league in sixth place just a couple of points behind the Play-off positions and Chris Hilton was rewarded with a contract for the next two years.

STOCKSBRIDGE RECENT HISTORY

2016/17 saw The Steels finish fourth in the league, along with another good run in the FA Trophy. Unfortunately Stocksbridge were beaten in the Play-off Semi-Final losing to Spalding United. The 2018/19 season started with manager Chris Hilton signing a contract to stay with the club, but big changes were just about to happen. Allen Bethell, who had been the chairman since the clubs formation in 1986, announced he was going to retire due to health reasons. Graham Furness, who had been at the club for over 20 years, stepped up to the chairman's job with Roger Gissing becoming the vice-chairman. Steels were in Play-off contention till COVID put breaks on the season. However Hilton and assistant Lee Thompson did a great job keeping the team together throughout the entire lockdown. Unfortunately, when the football started again for the 2021/22 season Chris Hilton brought an end to his eight years at the club as he resigned as manager. In September 2021 announced the appointment of former player Ian Richards as their new manager. Ian brought back club legend Andy Ring as his assistant and finished mid table in their first season in charge. The 2022/23 season was successful with Stocksbridge finishing in the playoffs. Stocksbridge would be in and around the top 5 places all season but lost out on penalties to Stockton Town in the playoff semi-final. The 23/24 season saw the Steels stay around mid-table for most of the season eventually finishing in 15th position. A small cup run in the FA Trophy, eventually missing out away at Worksop and a semi-final of the County Cup were highlights. The Steels will be looking to improve on this for the 2024/25 season. Ian Richards and his management team have worked hard this pre-season to retain and recruit a squad capable to challenge competitively this season. Some senior players from last season have left to move up the pyramid and the club acted quickly to bring some exciting young prospects.

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ANDYSMANCLUB

#ITSOKAYTOTALK

WHAT IS ANDYSMANCLUB?

ANDYSMANCLUB is a free peer-to-peer group that provides a place for men to come together in a safe and open environment to talk about the issues or problems that they have faced or are currently facing.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The process is about bringing men together who have been in similar situations, to help each other on a peer to peer basis, sharing how they have dealt with various situations through lived experiences. No matter how big or small your problem feels, we are here to support each other. The 5 questions that are asked each week are designed not only to encourage men to talk, but to start to focus on the positives and on strategies to keep moving forward. There is no pressure to answer any of the questions and it is not uncommon for men to just listen for the first few sessions.

The clubs all run on the same format and adhere to the same guidelines. A key principle of ANDYSMANCLUB is anything that is said in the club, stays within the club.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The club is open to any man 18 or over, who is going through a storm, been through a storm or just wants to meet a good group of people with the aim of improving one another.

WHEN IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUBs meet every Monday at 7pm (excluding Bank Holiday Mondays).

WHERE IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB has over 100 locations across the UK. Check our website below for a full list.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just turn up on the night. No registration or referral is required, all we ask is that you arrive before 7pm. The full list of our locations available on our website.

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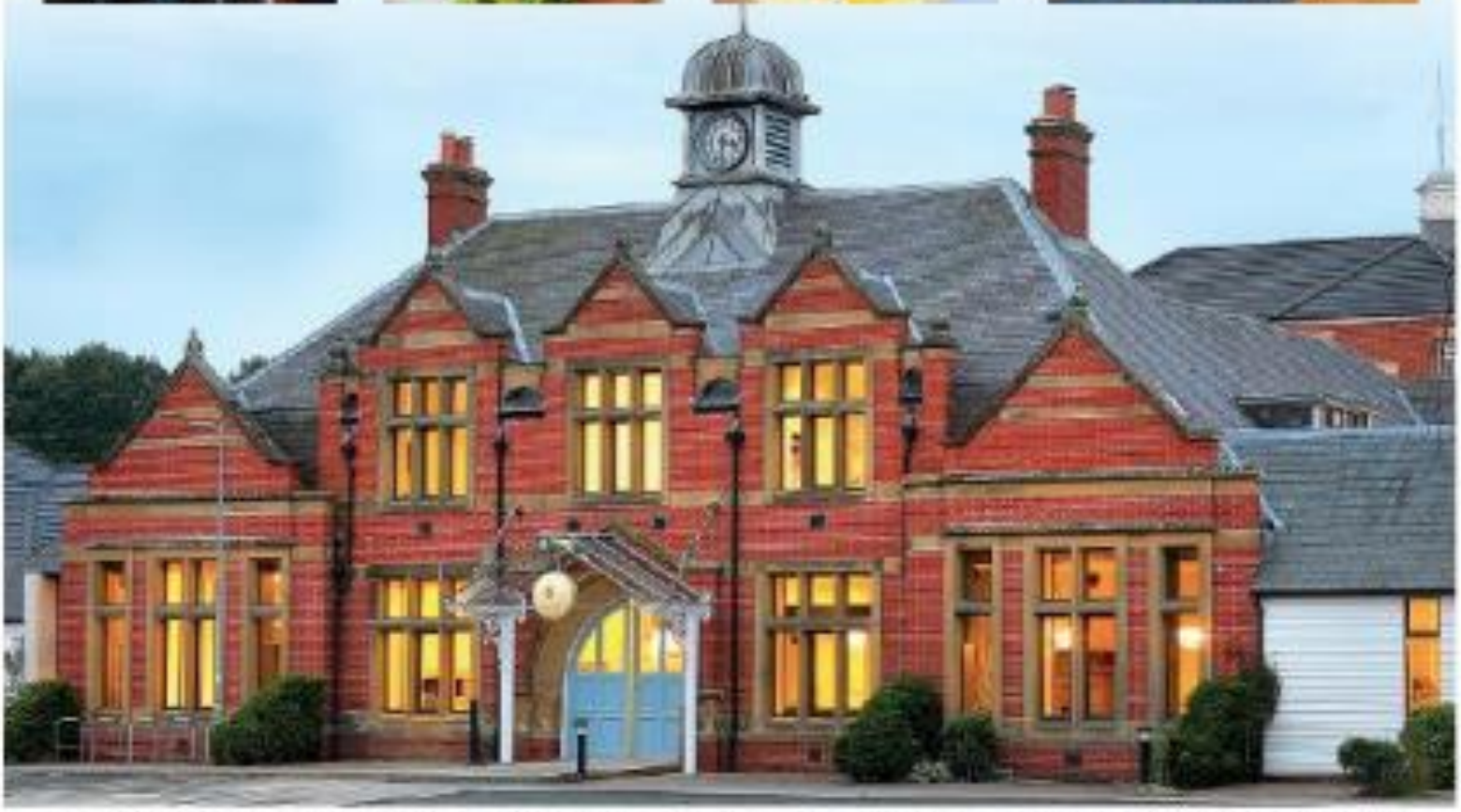

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Pick four numbers between 1-22 for just £1 per ticket.

You can purchase your tickets from the club shop or clubhouse bar before today's game. Alternatively, the clubhouse will be open from 5pm on Monday ahead of the 6pm draw.

If you require any further assistance or information, don't hesitate to get in touch by visiting the club shop on a match day, or by dropping us a DM on Facebook.

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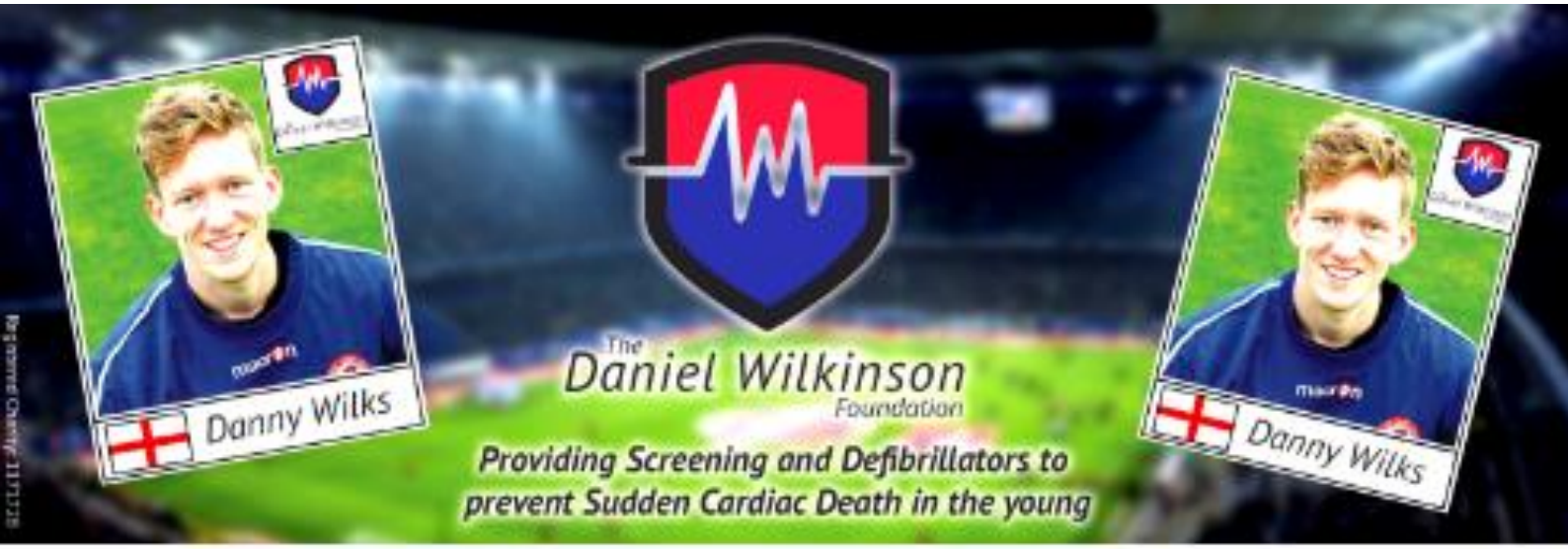
Danny Wilks
The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation
Providing Screening and Defibrillators to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in the young
Danny Wilks

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).

Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.

Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation has been set up to raise awareness of SCD and to provide funding towards heart screening, defibrillators and CPR/defibrillator training primarily for grass-roots sporting teams.

Tragedies can be prevented through cardiac screening. It is vital that young people are identified and treated.

Find out more

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A CLUB STATEMENT FROM THE CO-CHAIRMEN

"42 games played in the Northern Premier League East and we have achieved our highest league position in our 50 year history. We finish in second position, three points ahead of our nearest rivals. We now have a shot at promotion with the forthcoming play-off week. It is in our hands.

"At the start of the season we sat down with Jon McDonald and his team to discuss our aims for the year. This is a tough league with so many strong teams, but Jon was confident we could match, or better, last seasons' efforts - we have!

"Jon knew the areas we needed to improve on, player-wise, and we have supported him throughout to get the right people in the right places. His team have been credit to him and the club all season, no matter what happens this week.

"Off the field, we continue to strive to make everything better to improve the match day experience. The best signing we have made is Spanish and goes by the name of Cruzcampo, which we sell by the barrel load!

"The pitch is in excellent condition and we have enjoyed hosting a final for the Durham FA which could not have happened last season. Thanks to Dan Wilson and UTS, along with our unbelievable committee for the upkeep and continued maintenance.

"As ever, our sponsors have been tremendous and we could not operate at the level we do without them. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

"Our media team, what can we say. Truly exceptional. Coverage supplied on a match day and throughout the week is unbelievable. What we have is better than teams in leagues above us.

"Finally, our supporters. Home and away you have been tremendous and continue to turn up in numbers. We need you more than ever for the next one, possibly two, games.

"Get behind the lads from kick-off. Let's create an atmosphere, and let's get the promotion everyone at the club deserves."

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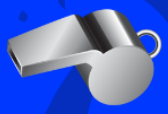

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